



Kentucky School Library Media News

Beyond Proficiency @ your library®

The wait is almost over . . . the new *Beyond Proficiency @ your library®* is near completion! Eighteen library professionals participated in the effort to update the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) library media guidelines. The work began September 2009 with a proposal submitted to KDE leadership, followed by several months of review. A 10-member advisory group met in late March 2010 to begin the arduous task of reviewing the 2001 *Beyond Proficiency* document, researching national library standards, and creating an interactive model for Kentucky's school librarians. An eight-member review group provided feedback during June. Additionally, practicing school media librarians from around the state gave feedback at the KSMA Summer Refresher in July. The result is the 2010 *Beyond Proficiency @ your library®*.

Beyond Proficiency @ your library® provides guidelines for school media librarians as they create, maintain and improve the library programs in their schools. The Web-based product includes:

- *Highly Effective Teaching & Learning Characteristics* (Librarians and Students)
- *School Library Media Program Rubric*
- *School Media Librarian Evaluation Instrument*

Each of the above sections contains links to resources and research to help school media librarians as they work to meet the needs of their school communities. Updates to the product will be ongoing so that the most current and accurate resources are available to librarians and school administrators.

Special thanks to the following:

Beyond Proficiency @ your library® Advisory Group:

Melissa Gardner, Diane Goodwin, Emmalee Hoover, Cynthia Houston, Terri Kirk, Paul Lanata, Crystal Smallwood, Fred Tilsley, Candy Zaluski

Beyond Proficiency @ your library® Review Group:

Tom Bruker, Barbara Carper, Laura Crafton, Kay Hensley, Brenda Metzger, Madonna Morley, Becky Nelson, Tammy Rich

District Highlight:

Battle of the Books – Franklin County Schools

Fourth- and 5th-grade students from six schools in Franklin County participated in the district's annual "Battle of the Books" June 2-3, 2010, at Hearn Elementary. Event organizer **Becky Nelson**, school media librarian at Hearn Elementary, gives advice below for bringing this reading motivator to your own school or district.

Becky: Battle of the Books takes quite a bit of work for the original setup, but then it's easy to update. You can join [America's Battle of the Books](#) where they do a lot of the work, but it's a fee for service. We like to set it up ourselves because then we have control over the book list of about 25 books (separate for both 4th and 5th grades) and the questions, which we make up ourselves. Start small. The first year I held the competition only between classes in each grade level (4th and 5th) in my school. Gradually other schools joined in so that we had a school competition.

Teams from each school play against each other in a District Competition. We structure the questions so that every answer is a book title. For simplicity and to help our students with Governor's Cup Academic Team Quick Recall Competition, we structure our competition by those rules, except that every student must play at least one full half. The more collaboration, the better!

Our school librarians and director of Youth Services at our local public library plan and facilitate the competition. The teachers use the books in literature circles and for read-alouds during the school year and serve as coaches. Our central office personnel and district board members serve as our chief officials in the District Competition and/or come to watch. Our principals wear the team shirts and present the awards. It's the best motivator I've found to motivate students to read high-quality literature. Our students on the teams are rock stars during the competitions. Our libraries get terrific publicity district-wide for this program.

Resources and Recommendations

Professional Resource Highlight:

[School Library Monthly](#)

According to its website, [School Library Monthly](#) (SLM) "supports K-12 school librarians as they plan instruction collaboratively with teachers. It helps strengthen information literacy skills, inquiry and the research process and encourages the use of a variety of resources. It promotes the integration of technology and provides links to a vast array of literature. The articles in each issue are written by school library professionals, helping others stay abreast of current issues and trends."

SLM provides podcasts, links to library-related blogs, and full-text articles for school librarians.

Web Resource Highlight:

[Elementary Library Routines](#)

Elementary Library Routines is a wiki devoted to the specific needs of elementary school media librarians. It offers a great opportunity for collaboration with school librarians across the country.

Professional Organizations

Kentucky School Media Association (KSMA)
www.kysma.org

Kentucky Library Association (KLA)
www.kylibasn.org/

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/

American Library Association (ALA)
www.ala.org

Kentucky Reading Association (KRA)
www.kyreading.org

Collection Resource Highlight:

[Free Art Books](#)

The [Distribution to Underserved Communities Library Program](#) (DUC) distributes books on contemporary art and culture free of charge to rural and inner-city libraries, schools and alternative reading centers nationwide.

Audio Resource Highlight:

[Sync](#)

SYNC is giving away free downloads of popular young adult audio books, as well as classics, during July and August. Listeners (age 13+) can choose to join a conversation about these titles with authors, narrators, publishers, librarians, and other listeners.

Watch this YouTube video for more information: [SYNC Video](#)

Grant Resource Highlight:

[Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant](#)

Deadline: September 15

Award: \$500

Creative programs funded in the past have included:

- ongoing pen-pal projects bringing disparate communities together
- multi-cultural portrait projects
- art projects culminating in art shows, murals, or quilts
- bookmaking
- creation and performance of puppet shows
- inter-generational journals.

Information and Updates

Connecting with Characters Contest

The McConnell Center
School of Library & Information
Science
University of Kentucky

Deadline: November 5
Apply [here](#).

KSMA Fall Conference

September 17-18, 2010
Galt House Hotel and Suites
Louisville

*"In These Extraordinary Times . . .
Libraries Now More Than Ever"*



Kentucky Reading Association Conference

October 28-30, 2010
Louisville



Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday tweeted about his visit to the Kentucky School Media Association's 2010 Summer Refresher.

KY School Library Media News Archives

Volume 1, Issue 1: [Fall 2009](#)
Volume 1, Issue 2: [Winter 2010](#)
Volume 1, Issue 3: [Spring 2010](#)

Find it at KDE!

The [Library Media](#) section of the Kentucky Department of Education's website has many valuable resources for school librarians.

You can access the Library Media section of the KDE website by clicking the link above or by typing in the following URL:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Library+Media/>



Kathy Mansfield
Library Media/Textbooks Consultant
Kentucky Department of Education
(502)-564-2106
kathy.mansfield@education.ky.gov